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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/021,493	10/30/2001	Marc Lajeunesse	2091.009	1311

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EXAMINER

CIRIC, LJILJANA V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3753

DATE MAILED: 03/08/2004

10

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/021,493

Applicant(s)

LAJEUNESSE, MARC

Examiner

Ljiljana (Lil) V. Ciric

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 12-17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 October 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of Group I, readable on claims 1 through 11, in Paper No. 8, is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).
2. Claims 12 through 17 are hereby withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected Group II, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** proper traverse in Paper No. 8.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the following features must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s), for example: an integral temperature controlled compartment adapted to connect to the vehicle electrical system as recited in claim 1; the compartment having insulated walls as recited in claim 1; a mechanical refrigerating unit operated by an electrically powered compressor mounted on the compartment as recited in claim 1; an electrical heating unit mounted on the compartment as recited in claim 1; the door latch being connected to an electronic printer as recited in claim 6; the printer having an audible alarm as recited in claims 7 and 8; and, the door latch being connected to the computer as recited in claim 9. No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

4. In general, the informal drawings are not of sufficient quality to permit further examination. Accordingly, new drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

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Applicant is given a THREE MONTH time period to submit new drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.81. Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). Failure to timely submit new drawings will result in **ABANDONMENT** of the application.

Specification

5. The use of the trademark "PICSTIC" has been noted in this application on page 8. It should be capitalized wherever it appears *and be accompanied by the generic terminology*.

Although the use of trademarks is permissible in patent applications, the proprietary nature of the marks should be respected and every effort made to prevent their use in any manner which might adversely affect their validity as trademarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

7. Claims 1 through 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The originally filed disclosure fails to describe or even mention or otherwise show possession of certain features of the improvement as recited in base claim 1. For example, in the originally filed disclosure, there is no corresponding description or even a pictorial showing either an integral temperature controlled compartment or an electrical heating unit being mounted on the compartment as recited in base claim 1.

8. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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9. Claims 1 through 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The claims are generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform with current U.S. practice.

It is not clear whether the recitation of “an integral temperature controlled compartment” in lines 11-12 of base claim 1 refers to a vehicular compartment which is integral with the vehicle or to a cabinet on which are integrally mounted both a refrigerating unit and an electrical heating unit, thus rendering indefinite the metes and bounds of protection sought by claim 1 and claims 2 through 11 depending therefrom.

Also with regard to claim 1 as written, the limitations in lines 14-15 are not clear as to whether both the mechanical refrigerating unit and the compressor OR only the compressor is mounted on the compartment, thus rendering the structural configurations encompassed by the claim indefinite.

If the refrigerating unit and the heater are mounted ON the insulated compartment (and not in it) as recited in the claims, then it appears that one or more critical elements necessary to allow the refrigerating unit and the heater to maintain the temperature WITHIN the compartment are missing from the claim, thus rendering indefinite claim 1 and all claims depending therefrom.

With regard to claim 2 as written, it is not, for example, clear whether the computer is being positively recited or not.

With regard to each of claims 4 and 5, for example, it is not clear how (if at all) the “certain level” reached by the temperature of the compartment relates to the “certain range of temperatures” recited in claim 1 from which claims 4 and 5 ultimately depend.

The size ranges and the relative term “approximately” as recited in claim 11 render the intended scope of protection sought by the claim generally indefinite.

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The above is an indicative, but not necessarily an exhaustive, list of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, problems. Applicant is therefore advised to carefully review all of the claims for additional problems. Correction is required of all of the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph problems, whether or not these were particularly pointed out above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

10. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

11. As best can be understood in view of the indefiniteness of the claims, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bingham et al.

Bingham et al. discloses a wheeled vehicle including an electrical system of at least 12 volts [column 6, lines 43-45], as well as an “insulated” compartment corresponding to the compartment behind the driver’s compartment or cab 13 with a refrigerated unit 46 and an associated compressor 53.

12. The non-application of art against claims 2 through 11 should not be construed as an indication that the claims contain allowable subject matter but rather that the patentability of the claims cannot be determined at this time due to indefiniteness and/or other problems under 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraphs.

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Bishop, II, discloses a controlled temperature cabinet for use in an ambulance and a method for operating the same.

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ljiljana (Lil) V. Ciric, whose telephone number is (703) 308-3925.

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While she works a flexible schedule that varies from day to day and from week to week, Examiner Ciric may generally be reached at the Office during the work week between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. ET.

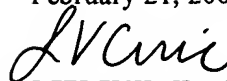
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dave Scherbel, can be reached on (703) 308-1272.

The NEW central official fax phone number is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.

lvc

February 21, 2004


LJILJANA V. CIRIC
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3753